

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04863 011306Z

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 EB-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /177 W
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R 011145Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9597

INFO US MISSION BRUSSELS 883

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SP

SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT CONTRACTING

REF: STATE 152033, MADRID 4382

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECONCOUNS AND SCIOFF ON OTHER SUBJECTS (REPORTED SEPTELS) FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ENRIQUE LARROQUE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT SUSPENSION URANIUM ENRICHMENT CONTRACTING. WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT RECENT EVENTS (PRESUMABLY REFERENCE ILLNESS FRANCO AND TEMPORARY TAKEOVER BY PRINCE) HAD PUSHED THIS ISSUE TO THE BACKGROUND AS HIGH LEVEL GOS DECISION MAKERS FOCUSED ON OTHER MATTERS.

2. HE SAID HE FEARED THAT RESISTANCE TO PURCHASE OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES BY THE SPANISH
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PAGE 02 MADRID 04863 011306Z

PRIVATE SECTOR, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, AND ENUSA, URANIUM

PURCHASING BOARD, MIGHT RESULT FROM THIS SUSPENSION.
LARROQUE REALIZES, HE WENT ON, THAT THIS TEMPORARY MEASURE
IS ONLY WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS A BUREAUCRATIC DELAY.
(EMBOFFS DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO AGGRAVATE MATTERS
BY REMINDING HIM CONTRACTING DELAYED PENDING CAPACITY
STUDY).

3. HE ADDED THAT THAT MINISTRY HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED
PURCHASE OF GERMAN REACTOR, MORE FRENCH NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY
IN GOS COUNCILS. HE AGAIN REMINDED ECONCOUNS AND EMBSCIOFF
OF PROPOSAL EVENTUAL JOINT VENTURE THIS FIELD (SEE STATE
15950 AND MADRID 365) AND CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT
ALL THOSE IN GOS ADVOCATING PURCHASE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY
NOW IN TROUBLE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONCERN NOT JUST WITH POSSIBLE GOS
MOVE TO GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO SEEKING OTHER SOURCES
ENRICHED URANIUM (MADRID 4382). EVEN IF SPAIN HAD LESS OF
AN ALTERNATIVE THAN SHE HAS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS REAL
POSSIBILITY OF DECLINE IN USG COMMERCIAL REPUTATION. (MOST
FREQUENTLY ASKED GOS QUESTION WAS WHETHER USG HAD THE
CAPACITY, WHICH NOW UNDER STUDY.) THIS COULD EFFECT OTHER
AREAS SUCH AS PENDING EFFORTS SELL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
EQUIPMENT. DISCUSSION LATTER REPORTED SEPTTEL. END COMMENT

5. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL RECEIVE ANY KIND OF ESTIMATE
AVAILABLE FROM DEPARTMENT ON WHEN AEC REVIEW OF PENDING
REQUESTS MIGHT BE COMPLETED.
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